

RIDGE LINES

www.gmcburlington.org

Fall 2008

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

❖ FIRST, EXPLORE THE WIDE VARIETY OF OUTINGS

Burlington Section volunteers plan, organize and lead an impressive number of outings every year. Pages 5-7 of this newsletter describe over thirty activities coming in the next few months. However, there are more than forty events for September alone on the main club's web calendar. Every one of the GMC's fourteen sections has free activities that are open to all. *There really is something for everyone!* September events include a bike ride that goes the length of our state, paddling on ponds and rivers, a concert, overnight backpacking trips, and hiking in Vermont, New York, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Go to www.greenmountainclub.org, select *News and Events* and then *Events Calendar*.

❖ SECOND, VOLUNTEER

We are a volunteer-led organization. We need volunteers to lead hikes, check on the condition of trails and shelters, do regular maintenance, educate the community about our club, even mail this newsletter. We also need volunteers to assume leadership roles and insure that the GMC and the Long Trail are around for future generations. (See the letter from Phil Hazen, Burlington Section president, on page 3, and sign on!)

❖ THIRD, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GMC CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Do you want to use your chainsaw safely, with confidence?

Are you interested in finding your way through trackless wilderness?

Do you know how to go backpacking without leaving any sign that you were there?

Would you know what to do if there's a health-related emergency far from a trailhead?

This fall and winter, the Green Mountain Club will be offering many useful and interesting workshops and classes. There are also programs for children and families, including the new Young Adventurers Club. You can find descriptions of all of the activities on pages 24 and 25 of the Fall 2008 *Long Trail News* or at www.greenmountainclub.org.

Inside: A message from the President of the Burlington Section ... Update on the new GMC Visitor Center ... An interview with a trip leader ... New books from GMC ... Hiking with dogs ... Safety tips for fall hiking ... Outings for September through December

A Note From One Of Our Readers

The Summer 2008 issue of *Ridge Lines* included Daan Zwick's recollections of hiking in the Mt. Mansfield area while he was caretaker at Taft Lodge in 1940. Sylvia Holden of Burlington wrote to say that she enjoyed the piece and the memories it brought back. The nine-year-old "Binney" whom Daan mentioned was Sylvia's cousin, Norman Snow. Thanks to mentors like Daan, Norman went on to become an executive in the Boy Scouts in Maine. He later settled in the Rochester NY area, near where Daan now lives.

Sylvia wrote, "I also remember the Summit House and how welcoming it was after a long hike from Taylor or Butler Lodge". The Summit House was built in 1858 under Mt. Mansfield's Nose. For almost a century, it was a destination for hikers on Vermont's highest mountain. Summit House closed in 1957 and has since been torn down.

Reminders About Staying Safe On Fall Hikes

Hunting All the land crossed by the Long Trail is open to hunting. The exact dates of hunting seasons change each year. Before heading into the woods, check the *Vermont Digest of Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Laws* (available from game wardens, places that sell outdoor equipment, and many country stores) or get a list of hunting season dates from your veterinarian or pet food store. **Always wear blaze (fluorescent) orange.** Don't wear clothing with patches of white that might be mistaken for the white tail of a deer. Make sure your pets also wear blaze orange.

Weather Vermont weather is notoriously changeable. Be prepared! Always carry the 3 W's: Wick, Warm and Wind. Wear or carry a layer that wicks moisture away from you (*not* cotton), a layer that's warm (fleece), and a layer that protects you against wind and rain. Pack a hat and gloves. Also bring a headlamp or flashlight in case you have to come down the trail after sunset.

Animals Male and female moose can be dangerous during rutting (mating) season, which lasts from late August till October. If you see a moose, don't antagonize the animal. Keep your distance.

Other Safety Tips Make sure someone knows where you're going and when you should be back home. Pack a trail map and a compass. Watch out for confusing animal paths and intersecting snowmobile or ski trails. Remember that snow or ice might obscure blazes, making it harder for you to find the trail. (Blazes are 2" by 6" rectangular markings. They're white along the Long Trail and blue on side trails. Double blazes mark important turns. Blazes are usually on trees, but they're also painted on rock on some trails and open summits.)

Two New Books from Green Mountain Club!!

Nature Guide to Vermont's Long Trail

by Lexi Shear

This easy-to-use guide should be in every hiker's backpack. Learn about the plants, animals, geology and natural features that are around you as you hike. The book includes descriptions of 215 species as well as color photos to help you identify what you see.

Place Names on Vermont's Long Trail: From Wampahoofus to Devil's Gulch

by H. Gardiner Barnum

Ever wondered why Vermont has a Clara Bow Trail? Who named the Profanity Trail? Who was Puffer, of Puffer Lodge? This book will tell you how and why many Vermont mountains, shelters and towns got their names. For example, Molly Stark Mountain is named for the wife of General John Stark. Right before the Battle of Bennington, General Stark rallied his troops by shouting, "There are the Redcoats, and they are ours, or this night Molly Stark sleeps a widow!"

To get your copies of these useful and enjoyable books, go to www.greenmountainclub.org and click on *GMC Store*. (You can also drive to the Waterbury headquarters, and check out the new Visitor Center at the same time!)

President's Message

As most of you already know from the Fall issue of the *Long Trail News*, the Second Century Capital Campaign has been successfully completed, raising \$5.3 million dollars. The Burlington Section can be especially proud of their part in this first-ever capital campaign by voting at our 2008 Annual Meeting to endow Butler Lodge future maintenance with a contribution of over \$25,000. The Burlington Section also endowed a mile of the Long Trail with a contribution of \$10,000.

In addition, Section committee volunteers solicited over \$300,000 for a grand total of over \$670,000 raised from Burlington Section members. A donor list will be established in the new Visitor Center that is under construction to replace the South Barn destroyed by fire in 2003.

Thanks to everyone for helping to successfully complete this campaign.

As always, there is still more to be done. I think the Burlington Section is in pretty good shape. We have many new trip leaders bringing in more hikers to our group. Trails and shelters are being maintained. We have a new web site and web master. The Taylor series has been successful. Great things!

What we could use most in the future are volunteers to fill positions on our Executive Committee. The Education and the Vice-President positions have gone unfilled this year. I am serving my fourth year as President; most serve for 3 years. Serving has given me a great opportunity to be a part of the volunteers that maintain the Long Trail System. New people bring new ideas to the table that I think keeps an organization vibrant and healthy.

So if you are asked to consider a position on the Committee while on one of our great hikes, we hope you will give it serious consideration.

Thanks,

Phil Hazen

355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net

New GMC Visitor Center!!

The Club's beloved old red barn was destroyed by fire in January 2003. The loss was a serious blow. For many years, the old barn had welcomed hikers and other visitors, providing them with maps, guide books, hiking equipment, encouragement and up-to-date information about trail conditions. Classes and meetings were held there. Snowshoe Festival participants ducked into the barn for warmth and food. Downstairs, there were decades of memories in the form of photos, shelter logs and hiking journals.

Since the fire, the small administrative building has also been home to the Visitor Center. Piles of maps, shelves of books, boxes of fleece and socks and water bottles shared the crowded front room, along with the office manager's desk, file cabinets, mailing center, and the big table where the dedicated "Thursday volunteers" work to fill on-line orders, prepare packets for new members, and get out bulk mailings.

Finally, after five years of planning and fund-raising, a new building is taking shape in the old barn's footprint. The walls were raised on August 10. The new Visitor Center will have space for workshops, classes and meetings, as well as displays and retail space. The post-and-beam building will be a physical symbol of GMC's dedication to the environment, with composting toilets, biomass heating, triple-paned glass and lots of insulation. In addition, the timbers came from woodlots managed through the Vermont Family Forests project and were harvested using sustainable methods.

The new Visitor Center also reflects the Green Mountain Club's long history of volunteerism. Club members came from all over Vermont to shape the timbers and take part in an old-fashioned barn-raising. The new building is scheduled to be completed this winter, so it can be enjoyed during GMC's hundred-year anniversary celebration in 2010. You can follow the progress as the Visitor Center is completed by dropping by for a tour or going to www.greenmountainclub.org.

Trip Leader Profile: Linda Evans

By Valerie Wilkins

Linda Evans loves to be involved with the Green Mountain Club – whether it's leading hikes, volunteering at the GMC headquarters in Waterbury, being a Summit Steward on Mt. Mansfield during the summer months or serving as Secretary and Shelter Coordinator for the Burlington Section. She's done all this in a relatively short time – since June of 1998 when she renewed her membership in the club.

Linda has hiked on and off for most of her life, but it's only within the last 10 years that she's begun to devote a significant amount of her free time to hiking. Her passion for hiking really took hold when she and her friends Lee Ann and Michael Banks came up with the idea of hiking the Long Trail. Linda, Lee Ann, and Michael tackled the LT section by section. In the north, where the trail is closer to home, they often did day hikes. They had to travel further to get to the trailheads in the southern part of the state, so they usually stayed out for two to three days at a time. The trio finished the Long Trail with a hike to Journey's End in September 2002.

After completing the Long Trail, Linda wanted to be more involved with the Green Mountain Club. For the past four years, she has served as Secretary of the Burlington Section, participating in quarterly meetings of the Executive Committee, keeping the minutes and handling other correspondence. She also has been Shelter Coordinator for two years, a position she shared with John Connell until this past spring. As Shelter Coordinator, Linda collects input from the Shelter Adopters and helps organize the kind of minor repairs that aren't handled by GMC headquarters. She also visits the shelters regularly.

Within the last few years, Linda has added trip leader to her long list of GMC volunteer activities. Though she enjoys doing hikes of all intensity levels, Linda particularly likes to lead hikes for people who prefer a leisurely to moderate pace. She welcomes (and encourages!) folks who are new to hiking to come on her trips. When planning an outing, Linda selects hikes that *she* likes to do and that she thinks others will enjoy. She wants participants to have a positive experience so they'll head out on the trail again. When folks sign up for an outing, Linda talks with them to get a sense of their interests and abilities and then adapts the day's itinerary based on their input. For Linda, attention to the needs and wishes of the group, flexibility, and a good sense of humor are all important to being a good trip leader and making every outing a success.

Many of the hikes that Linda leads are in the Mt. Mansfield area, with Nebraska Notch as a favorite spot. More distant outings have included a trip to the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge for some prime bird watching, and a relaxing lunch at the GMC cabins in Barton, combined with a hike up and around nearby Wheeler Mountain. You can find descriptions of these outings on the Burlington Section website, www.gmcburlington.org.

Linda also coordinates an annual – and very popular – winter weekend at the Wiesel Cabin in the Adirondacks, where peak bagging, snowshoeing, skiing, eating, and shopping in nearby Lake Placid are all parts of the mix. Again, Linda's flexibility is the key to a successful outing!

In all of her many activities, Linda sees herself as an ambassador for the Green Mountain Club. Because the GMC and the Long Trail have brought such richness to her life, she's eager to share the benefits with others. Whether it's leading a hike, answering questions on top of Mt. Mansfield, or staffing a table at the EMS Club Day, Linda enjoys having a good time, getting to know others, and spreading the word about the GMC.

Join Linda for an upcoming hike!

Linda will be leading a full moon hike to Butler Lodge on December 13. See the outing schedule for more details.